Hi~my name is Colin, my current event will be on CSAT, which took place about three weeks ago. Koreans would recognize it as 수능. Last Wednesday, the results actually came out.

**Description of issue:**

All Korean high school students are faced with the burden of taking the CSAT during their senior year. The College Scholastic Ability Test is considered a key decider of college entrance. While these students take their exams, you would often see prayer events at churches and temples, and there will be celebrations after the exam.

This year, November 10, 2011, Thursday was the College Exam Day for 690,000 South Korean high school students. In order to avoid traffic and keep the streets clean, early morning planes were grounded and working hours started at 10 a.m. Even the stock markets opened an hour late, and public transportation increased its services, and police cars offered rides for students to make sure that they get to their designated high schools on time.

This is an annual event for Korean high school students and parents,

and this is the most important day for a nation where education is the No. 1 priority. However, the fact that Korean education system places such an importance on this exam may pose problems for some high school students and parents.

**Defense: Why should we care?**

As mentioned before, this is significant for Korea as its education system has been quite controversial. However, is this the only way to test the high school students? Why is it only given on one day every year? If you look at US, high school students have to take the SAT, which is similar to the CSAT, but SAT is offered several times throughout the year and you can make a choice as to which date to take this important exam. However, this is not the case in Korea. If you’re sick on the exam day, you have to wait another whole year. If you’re late on the exam day, you also have to wait another whole year. There is no re-takes or make-ups for this exam. While this may prevent students from cheating and may offer an advantage of dealing with the exam all on one day given the same situation, this may not be an ideal way to deal with students preferences. For example, if this test weighs so much in the application process, there is no value to extracurricular activities can show individuality.

**Obama picture**

While South Korea’s education system is held up as a model around the world and has been praised by President Obama, there are many side effects to this system.

**Suicide picture**

To talk about the most serious issue, teenage suicide, it is known throughout the world that Korea has one of the highest in the world. The U.S. had headline news about surpassing 100 suicides in one year, but Korea passed 200 per year even before that. Besides suicide, depression is also common, which can lead to a serious psychological problem.

**NEXT**

Although about 80% of its high school students now go on to pursue further education, the academic success has created its own social problem. Because there are so many people graduating from universities, and they only look for high-end jobs such as LG and Samsung, it is difficult to match positions, which brings increasing unemployment.

**GRAPH**

**Possible Solutions?**

Officials in the department of education and other educators have been discussing possible changes in Korean education system. However, this has been discussed over and over, and it does not look like this tradition of taking the CSAT will change any time soon. In foreign eyes, this exam day may look like madness. To think about it, the education system enables everyone to classify themselves, since the CSAT itself divides you into different degrees based on the results.